

BACK TO BARBARISM.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS EXPERIENCE A RELAPSE.

Many the White Adventurers Who Settled in the Solomon Group Have Been Served Up at Feasts—Others Have Fled the Place.

NEW HAS JUST been received in this country that the cannibal inhabitants of the Solomon Islands have returned once more to their barbarous practice of head-hunting and man-eating. The dispatches state that the white settlers in the neighborhood, who, after a year's cessation from these bloodthirsty pursuits on the part of the natives, had begun to feel somewhat secure, have been stricken with terror and are fleeing to Australia on every available vessel. They are accompanied in their flight by numbers of missionaries, who are well aware that the South Sea Island cannibal has a strong partiality for white flesh, and that he will go to the extent of slaying even these good and harmless clergymen when once his appetite for human flesh has been thoroughly excited.

In all of the adjoining islands the white settlers have applied to the British admiral, Sir A. G. Bridge, for protection.



The admiral has displayed commendable energy in his effort to punish the horrible offenders, and, according to the latest reports, has embarked on board of the first-class cruiser Orland with the purpose of shelling the savage hamlets and dwellings along the coast. It is doubtful, however, whether much will be accomplished by this line of procedure, as the savages are accustomed to retreat to the interior while the firing is going on, and, by the deftness and treachery of their movements, they have often been known to seize straggling boatloads of the whites as they visited the shore and to make off with them in triumph. Very few of these unfortunate captives have ever been seen again. According to the usual practice of the Solomon Islanders, they are immediately put to death and their bodies carefully quartered by the chief's butcher. The pieces are then hung up on the branches of shady trees and allowed to acquire the proper degree of seasoning.

The latest white victims of the savages were the ship's company of the Sydney trading schooner Amelia, Capt. D. Kerr, his mate, Samuel Smith, and eight or ten men. They sailed in the schooner Amelia from Rubiana in the middle of last April and have since been missing under circumstances that leave no question as to their fate. The British naval officers in the vicinity are naturally enraged over the miserable destruction of these sailors, and it is probable that swift vengeance will be taken upon the cannibals if they fall into the clutches of the whites. When the sailors failed to return to Rubiana in May, one Nathaniel Wheatley, of that place, organized a search for them and succeeded in picking up the deck-house, the hatches and other parts of the Amelia, but every one of the men had disappeared.

The group of islands called the Solomon Islands by early navigators, who vaguely supposed that they were the original depository of Solomon's gold, extend from the northwest to the southeast in latitude 5 to 11 degrees south and 154 to 163 degrees east, at a distance of about 900 miles northeast of Australia. They are the largest of the numerous groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean, and were discovered by Alvaro de Mendana in 1567. Yet, though they were thus among the earliest known islands in this region, our information in regard to their topography, resources and inhabitants has always remained very meagre, owing to the unamiable character of the natives.

The Solomon Islanders are of a mixed race, varying between an almost pure Malay type and the dark-skinned Polynesian. Though savage

in their habits, they are nevertheless intelligent, crafty, thievish and revengeful, and they are said, when domesticated, to make excellent and faithful servants. The men wear no clothing but a loin band, and the women wear a small skirt. They are mostly small of stature and their hair and skin are intensely black, the former being closely frizzled. Some visitors have described these people as the most savage, brutal and degraded race on earth, but this opinion is perhaps too severe. Although cannibals, they are by no means degraded as compared with other savage races. They had acquired in the process of their development and before coming in contact with Europeans a knowledge of various simple arts, several of which they practiced with remarkable skill. They are singularly clever in surgery, setting arms and legs with bamboo splints. They have also obtained some knowledge of dentistry, though their treatment of a patient is somewhat of a heroic character.

A protectorate was established over the entire group in 1893. The British government thus acquired a total area of seven or eight thousand square miles and a population of about 50,000 savages, the greater part of whom were cannibals. At the time of the establishment of the protectorate the chief of the island of San Christoval, one of the most cannibalistic of the lot, was one Taki, a converted man-eater, whose picture is given herewith.

Contrary to the general impression, the practice of cannibalism has by no means been extinguished. It has been

THIRTY-EIGHT MILES AN HOUR.

Speed Claimed for a Steamer with Propellers Scattered All Over Her.

Richard Painton is the inventor and patentee of a steamship which he declares will be able to make thirty-eight nautical miles per hour. A model of the craft is now on exhibition at the Maritime Exchange, New York. Mr. Painton wishes to form a stock company with \$3,000,000 paid-up capital. The model represents a vessel 636 feet long, capable of carrying 2,500 passengers, 400 officers and sailors, 5,000 tons of coal, 4,000 tons of freight, 400 tons of food for the passengers and 300 tons of food for the crew. In speaking of his model Mr. Painton said: "I gave the model a successful trial before the board of naval constructors and engineers at Philadelphia, and I have the assurance of Chief Engineer Melville of the navy that my system of distributing power and my patent propellers will revolutionize the construction of ocean-going vessels. The distribution of power is the whole secret. We have a series of from fourteen to twenty propellers, four at the stern, four at the bow and from four to eight on each side of the vessel. They are all worked by independent motors and a vessel could be propelled by any one of them. Again, the distribution of power permits a vessel to turn on its own axis. The engines are worked like ordinary stationary engines ashore. The shafts that work the propellers are from twelve to twenty-five feet in length, and weigh from five to ten tons each. At present the shafts of an ocean steamer are sixty-five feet long and weigh about sixty tons. The four propellers on the bows have a two-fold duty. In the first place they help to propel the ship either forward, backward or sideways, and in the second place they keep the bow steady in rough weather and save the strain on the stern propellers. The motors are not connected with each other. They have a capacity of six and one-eighth horse power and can work the propellers at an average speed of 1,800 revolutions per minute. Under the system the ship would average thirty-eight knots an hour. A vessel propelled by such a system would save fully 60 per cent in coal. I estimate the cost of a passenger steamer at about \$1,500,000. This would cover the cost of every modern convenience. The secret of the alternating propeller is this: The blades are constructed like a fish's tail. When the blades strike the water they present a great surface of resistance, and while recovering they present a surface akin to the edge of a knife, and by having two propellers the other takes up the work that the first one cannot accomplish. No power is lost and no wash results from the whole series of propellers. The whole sys-



tem of propellers is worked by a switchboard, which is operated in the chart-house. Any propeller can be run or stopped at will, and in this way the captain is independent of his officers or crew."

The Liars' Club.

There is an eccentric hen in Hopkins, Kan., which persists in going each day to the top of a tall cottonwood tree in the yard to lay. The Journal says the children stand under the tree with their aprons spread, to "catch the precious missile as it falls."

A man in Saco, Maine, recently had a terrific fight with a monster mud turtle. When it finally succumbed to his prowess and to a fence stake, he found that it weighed thirty-two pounds. In the same remarkable state a fox trap was recently found, which, though set sixty years before, was in a good state of preservation. Maine is such a dry state, it had scarcely rusted at all.

Baptized Four Generations.

At a recent baptism at Litchfield, Me., was one family consisting of Master Leonard Merrill, with his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Beulah Merrill; his grandmother and grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Merrill, and also his great grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lunt, the former 86 years old and the latter 79 years old. This group of seven persons entered the water at the same time. There were 2,600 people to see the ceremony by baptism.

Drunk Damage.

Albert Hurley, it is alleged, got drunk in a saloon at Waterloo, Iowa. Then he tried to walk on the railing of a bridge, fell and was fatally injured. His widow is now suing the proprietors of the saloon for \$12,000.

WOMAN AND HOME.

UP TO DATE READING FOR DAMES AND DAMSELS.

The Mirror of Fashion—Some of the Latest Styles for the Season—Some Useful Hints for the Household—Current Notes of the Modes.

HIS pretty design is exceedingly simple but dressy and becoming; there are no seams in the back and the bottom is finished with a girdle having a bow at the back like the one in front. Crepon or any of the woolen novelties may be used for this model, with velvet or silk in combination. The skirt is one of the newest styles and measures a little more than five yards around the bottom. It has five breadths, with exceedingly wide side gores and two back breadths, usually cut to meet on the bias. This skirt fits the waist trimly across the front and over the hips, and the fullness of the back breadths is laid in two box plaits. To secure the distended effect, face with crinoline or canvas. Some skirts have a very narrow and flexible steel sewed all around the bottom; but, better than this to secure a slight stiffness, is a thick cord of candle-wicking covered with satin or velvet to harmonize with the gown. This is an excellent model for any of the popular silk or wool fabrics and can be used with any style of waist, basque or coat.



FOR MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.

Those Simple Gowns. Wilkie Collins's "Woman in White" would have created little comment by the color of her gown had she lived at this latter day, since she would have been but one of a thousand wearing that color. Go where you will, at seashore or mountain, in city or country, indoors or out, white is the predominating color in dress. Last year the men wore white duck suits and we envied them their cool appearance; this year we have not forgotten, but wear white duck ourselves. When we are not going a-yachting, or a-wheeling, or some place where we can wear a duck suit, we don white muslin and cool the surrounding atmosphere by our appearance, and delight our husbands and sweethearts by the seeming simplicity of our tastes.



Have you ever heard of the story of the woman who captivated the hearts of all the husbands at a certain fashionable resort with her white muslin gown and blue ribbons? The men thought she dressed so simply, and one husband ventured to suggest to his wife that she "go and do likewise." Instead of buying expensive gowns, she took his advice, and he became a sadder and wiser man when the laundry bills came in.

Such will be the experience of those who pay the bills this year, but the items of the bills will be trimmings and foundations for "those simple gowns." My lady has a dainty mull over white silk, with three plaited panels set in the skirt. For the bodice the mull is simply pulled over a tight lining, while the big puffs which serve as sleeves end at the elbow. Straps of sea-green ribbon ending in choux cross the plaited parts of the skirt and run from the shoulder half way down the sleeve. A belt of the ribbon finishes the costume, which is especially adapted for a garden party.

Wide-brimmed hats with aggressive-looking bows and loops and an abundance of blossoms are the rule.

A Safe Exception to a Sound Rule.

A scarf-effect is added to the already much bloused front of some bodices. The scarfs are of soft chiffon or lace, start from the shoulder seams, and at the shoulder extend from the collar to armhole. They are drawn to the waist, but are bagged as much as possible, the outer edge of the scarfs being loosened even more than the inner one, the result being a pair of festoons that widen the figure a great deal from the



bust line down. The scarfs are knotted at the belt, the ends crossing and hanging to the knees. Such blouses are best worn with entirely plain skirts, the severity of one heightening the elaboration of the other by contrast. This is a common rule, and it is only comparatively in rare instances that it is broken.

QUICKER'N A WINK.

Your Photograph on a Railroad Ticket While You Wait.

About two years Julius Gregory, of San Francisco, undertook the construction of an apparatus which, with a simple photographic adjunct, would make possible the act of transferring to a railway ticket the portrait of each purchaser while he is paying the clerk for his transportation. Success attended his efforts—that is, so far as the simple mechanism is concerned. It remained for Frank Devay to perfect the machine. This required a series of baths for developing solution, an arrangement to insure proper immersion of the ticket in its baths and a novel flash-light attachment. The tickets used must be of special manufacture, two inches of the end of each being of a sensitized material, which must be kept in a light-tight paper case. A purchaser presents himself at the window and asks for a ticket. The sensitized end, with its paper covering, is slipped into a frame. The whole is then inserted in the slot at the top of the machine. The operator presses a spring, a percussion cap explodes, igniting a flash light, the lens covers, shutting almost instantly, and in the twinkling of an eye the picture is being automatically developed. The explosion of the flash light sets the machinery in operation, an elevator draws the ticket down, leaving the light-tight case behind, to a point where the first bath meets it. This bath is filled with developing solution. The first bath then gives place to the second. As these baths recede they empty into the lower tank, where the development is complete. The elevator then returns the ticket to the slot and the operator pulls it out and presents it to the purchaser. The whole process occupies less than a minute. Thus the ticket is made absolutely non-transferable.

THIS WAS IN HARD TIMES.

And the Shameless Editor Was Shat Off in His Desire to Explain Things.

A story was recently told of how a preacher tested the effect of the hard times upon his congregation. At the conclusion of one of his sermons he said:

"Let everybody in the house who pay their debts stand up."

Instantly every man, woman and child, with one exception, arose to their feet. He seated the crowd, and then said:

"Let every man who is not paying his debts stand up."

The exception noted, a careworn, hungry individual, clothed in his last summer suit, slowly assumed a perpendicular position and leaned upon the back of the seat in front of him.

"How is it, my friend," inquired the minister, "that you are the only man in this large congregation who is unable to meet his obligations?"

"I publish a newspaper," he meekly replied, "and my brethren here, who have just stood up, are my subscribers, and—"

"Let us pray!" exclaimed the minister.

"A Double-Faced Dance."

The city folks at Liberty, N. Y., had a "double-faced dance" a few evenings since. All wore double masks and, like a corner house, were dressed to face both ways. The effect was bewildering, and made one involuntarily wonder what kind of a world this would be if every one in it were really "two-faced." Some of the ladies with abundant hair used that natural adornment to conceal their faces, and, by dressing backward, so to speak, and putting masks on the back of their heads, made an effective disguise. Many complimentary things were said to the ladies' back hair which were intended for their faces.

The gentlemen were also reversed in their make-up, with dress suits on hind side before, but their feet, the ladies said, "gave them dead away."

The New Battle Ships.

The two new battle ships of which plans are now being drawn are not to cost over \$4,000,000 each. Turning labor into time at \$1 a day, the census average, this would make the maximum cost of each of the work of 4,000 men for 1,000 days, or about three years. This would include, of course, all the time spent in preparing all the materials of all kinds—as in digging the coal to heat the furnace to make the iron and steel for nails and armor and guns, felling the trees to make the lumber, digging the mineral for the paint, planting and cultivating the beans for making the oil, and so on. So that probably the estimate above is well within the actual cost of labor-time required.

A Dainty for Dogs.

The "piece de resistance" of an epicurean dog is horse hoof paring, as any blacksmith will explain. That is one reason that a passing dog likes to drop into a blacksmith shop. It is said also that the parings are healthful, and a Chicago fancier makes it his business to give his dogs a treat in this way once a week. Blacksmiths say that a visiting dog will always first pick out the parings of the "frog" and will leave out the harder portions till the last.

A Lawn Sprinkling Fence.

An Auburn, Maine, man has invented for his use a novel method of lawn sprinkling. He has made the top rail of the fence around his lawn of iron water pipes, jointed together so as to permit a continuous flow of water, and perforated on the inner side with small holes. He connects the fence and the hose and the water is evenly sprayed over every part of the lawn.